

“The purpose of North Vancouver Public Schools is to promote academic, social, and personal development for all learners, to honour diversity, encourage equity, and practice democratic governance.”

International Baccalaureate Approved for North Vancouver

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am absolutely thrilled to announce the approval of Balmoral Junior Secondary as a Candidate School for the *International Baccalaureate Program*. This recognition by the International Baccalaureate Organization reaffirms the commitment of the School District to maximize the enrolment potential of Balmoral School through the introduction and expansion of programs of choice within North Vancouver.

Balmoral will continue to proceed with the implementation of the IB Middle Years Program for students in Grades 8 through 10 in September 2008 and will be receiving applications for registration of new students beginning in January 2008. The school will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, January 26th. As well, Carson Graham School has submitted its Intent to Apply for the Diploma Program (Grades 11 and 12) and the IBO has accepted this application. An IB Consultant has been assigned to the school to assist with the formal application process. Carson has set September 2009 as the first year for the Diploma Program to be offered at the school. Carson will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, January 31st.

To enable the delivery of the International Baccalaureate Program from Kindergarten to Grade 12, the School District's IB Working Committee will commence the consultative process to identify the Elementary school locations for the Primary Years Program. The Board of Education plans to announce the locations of the IB Primary Years Program during the early spring, in time for registration for September 2008.

Expanding Opportunities for Students

The introduction of the International Baccalaureate Program is just one example of the North Vancouver School District continuing to increase students' access to programs within our community. The School District's *Sustaining Schools Working Committee* is now receiving proposals for specialty academies and programs of choice to be considered for possible introduction in the fall. These initiatives are expected to build upon the existing success of the Windsor Hockey Academy and the recently introduced pilot *North Vancouver High Performance Program*.

The North Vancouver School District established the first Distributed Learning School on the North Shore, *Learn Online 44*, and will be providing an expanded selection of program offerings for students for the 2008/2009 school year. Timetables in secondary schools continue to be examined to facilitate student access to courses available at neighbouring schools, and to enable participation in specialty academies. Distributed Learning and increased access to programs will also be supported through the application of technology and the use of the Internet.

Access to our very popular French Immersion program will be enhanced through the expansion of the Late French Immersion Program for students entering Grade 6 in September 2008. In addition to Ecole Braemar Elementary School, the Board plans to expand the program to Boundary Elementary School and to an elementary school in the Windsor and Seycove families of schools, to be determined in consultation with parents.

Windsor Secondary will be established as our third French Immersion Secondary School, effective September 2009, as per the Board's study of Late French Immersion, thereby enabling students graduating from Sherwood Park and Dorothy Lynas to attend high school closer to their homes while helping to address enrolment concerns at both Argyle and Windsor Secondary Schools.

Celebrations of Success

- The very successful Fifth Annual Community Forum was an important opportunity for the Board to engage the community in developing an exciting and affirmative vision for the School District's future.
- Our Aboriginal Education Council, the Squamish and Tsleil- Waututh Chiefs and Elders had the great pleasure of hosting Their Honours, the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and Mrs. Gwen Point at a celebratory *Honouring Our Parents and Children Feast*.
- The North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce presented its annual *Business Excellence Awards*. The Artists for Kids Trust is the proud recipient of the 2007 *Arts, Culture & Community Award*.
- We launched new instructional resources developed by our extremely talented and dedicated staff. *Writing 44* and *Digital Expression* are now available for use in classrooms throughout BC.

New Schools and the Shared Use of Facilities

Responding to the challenges identified within the Matrix Long-Range Facilities Plan, the Board of Education will continue to address declining enrolment through the expansion of programs of choice and the increased shared use of facilities. The Board will also engage its Municipal partners in examining the impact that declining enrolment will have on the future of the community. In order to assist with sustaining schools within the North Vancouver School District, effective and complementary strategies are being developed in consultation with the broader community.

The newly opened Westview Elementary School perhaps best illustrates the tremendous opportunities that are available to the North Vancouver School District and community for the future sustainability of our schools. Faced with aging facilities and declining enrolment at both Westview and Lonsdale Elementary, the School District conducted a comprehensive feasibility study that resulted in the consolidation of the two old schools in need of replacement with one new school that incorporates pre-school, day care and a StrongStart Centre.

Through the generous contribution from the City of North Vancouver as well as the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the new Westview School in cooperation with the North Shore Neighbourhood House is able to provide needed services for both the school and the community. The Board of Education is delighted to dedicate the new Westview Elementary School Library in honour of former City Mayor Jack Loucks.

For the first time in nearly thirty years, the School District will be opening the doors to a fabulous new Secondary School. Sutherland Secondary will be opening for classes in January 2008. The new school incorporates the latest building technology for environmental sustainability and will support the integration of technology through instruction. Sutherland will be home to the City's second artificial turf field, made possible through a sizeable contribution by the City of North Vancouver, as well as other community partners. The site also includes a new asphalt track surrounding the artificial turf field. A Joint Use Agreement with the City of North Vancouver ensures that these sports facilities will be available for use by our students as well as members of the wider community.

We have continued our ambitious capital program and have now completed projects valued at more than \$100 million over the past seven years. With a new Highlands Elementary School now under construction, the Board of Education continues to improve the quality of the instructional environments for our students and our staff.

Parent Information Meetings - Education and Program Meetings being held in schools

The Board's Education and Programs meeting will be held on January 15th at Windsor Secondary and will provide an overview of both our French Immersion and our First Nations programs. Parents are invited to a special Late French Immersion information meeting for interested Grade 5 students and their parents on January 23 at 7:00 pm at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre.

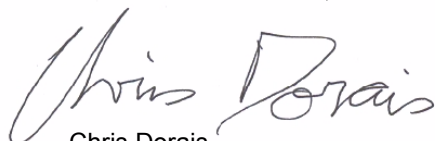
The February 5th Education and Programs Meeting will be taking place at Balmoral Junior Secondary and will feature *Programs of Choice*. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Community Connections – Spirit of the Season

We have much to celebrate in our community and it is in the *Spirit of the Season* that we not only remember those less fortunate than us, but also take action to assist those in need. The Board of Education is extremely proud of the generosity and caring demonstrated throughout the School District during the past weeks. Through the combined efforts of our students, staff, parents and schools, a real difference has been made to the lives of many. Please go to the link below for a sampling of these initiatives.

<http://www.nvsg44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/Headlines/SpiritOfTheSeason.aspx>

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express best wishes to all students, parents, and staff over the holiday season.



Chris Dorais,
Chairperson, Board of Education of North Vancouver School District



*the natural place
to learn*